



PRIME MINISTER
OFFICIAL STATEMENT
Thursday 26th March 2020

**PM CONFIRMS ALL 15 PERSONS WITH FIRST CORONAVIRUS
CASE TESTED NEGATIVE**

Prime Minister's Update
Day 6 of State of Emergency
Approved for Release

The Prime Minister, Hon. James Marape has confirmed that 15 of the persons who came into close contact with the first coronavirus case reported in PNG as negative.

And counting down day 6 of the SoE a total of 6,255 Persons of Interest (POI) have been recorded by the COVID-19 Joint Agency Task Force from all inbound passengers since 6-13 March of 2020.

Of the 6,255 POI's:

- 2,116 have completed 14 days quarantine;
- 4,139 are currently being followed up;
- 72 tested so far;
- 15 contacts of the first positive case all negative; and
- 32 persons under investigation.

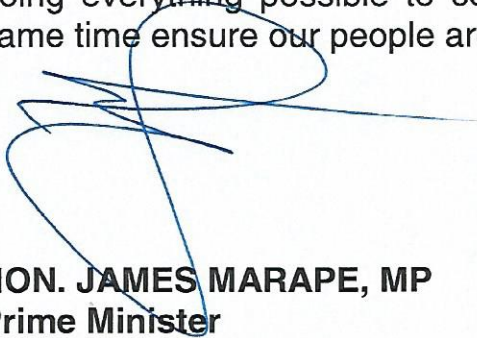
Other incoming passengers from 13 March onwards are currently being followed up with text messages and phone calls through National Operation Centre with the respective provincial authorities.

“Once we establish the facts further announcement will be made. There is no need to panic. We are doing everything possible to ensure that we get back as soon as possible to the green stage where we would ideally want to be.

A total of 43 responsible government departments and agencies as well as the private sector are currently operating from the National Operations Centre to fight the spread of Coronavirus of COVID-19.

“I am humbled to see many of our citizens both in the public and private sector working hard to take on this threat facing PNG. While the government is doing its best to fight COVID-19, I am urging every citizen to act responsibly at these trying times.

“Essential services will continue. Goods and essential personnel such as medical officials and law enforcement officers will be allowed to travel during the lock down period. The Joint Agency Task Force under the Controller is doing everything possible to contain and fight the coronavirus whilst at the same time ensure our people are not further inconvenienced.”

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'JAMES MARAPE', is written over the printed name and title.

HON. JAMES MARAPE, MP
Prime Minister